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THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: NEW DIRECTIONS

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I. UNETPSA: AN OVERVIEW

1. Introduction

As Mrs. Elizabeth Lewin, an independent evaluator of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA) in 1989, put it,

"within the whole range of educational support available to disadvantaged South African students, UNETPSA occupies a unique niche. Since its inception, it has been a practical and immediate expression of the anti-apartheid policy of the United Nations, a humanitarian complement to the political and diplomatic work of the United Nations for the peaceful elimination of apartheid and the promotion of a non-racial, democratic and united South Africa. As an impartial multilateral channel for scholarship assistance that grants awards to individuals on the basis of merit and financial need, it affords Governments, especially those which do not have their own separate programmes, the opportunity to contribute to a genuine humanitarian effort that has always received unanimous support."

UNETPSA was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2349 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 by integrating earlier special programmes to assist persons from Namibia, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and the Territories under Portuguese administration in Africa. Following the independence of many of these countries, UNETPSA now grants new awards only to nationals of South Africa, and, in the case of Namibian nationals for a transitional period ending on 31 December 1992.

The basic purpose of the Programme is to contribute to human resources development for a non-racial, democratic and united South Africa. However, since December 1991, when General Assembly resolution 46/80 was adopted, the Programme has been authorized to initiate, in an appropriate manner, educational and training programmes inside South Africa.

UNETPSA provides assistance for studies at the higher secondary level, for university education, advanced technical and vocational training, specialized short-term training and internship programmes, both inside South Africa and abroad.

Under an agreement concluded between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Centre against Apartheid, UNHCR provides educational assistance to bona fide refugees up to the first level of secondary education, complementing the programmes provided by UNETPSA at the higher secondary and the undergraduate levels.

Assistance under UNETPSA is granted by means of individual scholarships tenable at established schools, colleges, universities and technical institutions. The general policy of the Programme is to grant awards, in so far as possible, for training in South Africa and other low-cost countries so that as many students as possible can be trained with the limited funds available. Awards in high-cost countries are provided primarily for advanced degrees at the graduate level in priority disciplines of study. When making these awards due consideration is given to human resources needs in South Africa and to the returnability and employability of graduates.

2. Administration of the Programme

At United Nations Headquarters, the Centre against Apartheid is in charge of the overall administration of the Programme. Day-to-day operational activities are carried out by the Department of Economic and Social Development. Away from Headquarters, the Programme is administered with the assistance of the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and for European cases, of the Geneva-based Office for Technical Assistance, Recruitment and Fellowships of the Department of Economic and Social Development.

Decisions on scholarship awards in high-cost countries (in North America, Europe, the Caribbean and Japan), are made by the Centre on the recommendations of an intra-Secretariat Selection Panel at Headquarters. Final decisions on scholarships in low-cost countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are also made by the Administration of the Programme at Headquarters but screening, evaluation and nomination of applicants for study in the countries of these regions is normally the responsibility of the UNDP field offices, which are also responsible for the administration of awards in the areas under their jurisdiction.

In addition to the close cooperation it has with UNDP and UNHCR, the Programme maintains liaison or co-sponsorship arrangements with specialized agencies of the United Nations, with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and with other agencies assisting Black South African students, notably the Commonwealth Secretariat, the African-American Institute, the World University Service, the Institute of International Education, the South African Education Trust Fund of Canada and other non-governmental organizations. Inside South Africa, UNETPSA has co-sponsorship arrangements with the Africa Scholarship Fund, the Bursary Council of South Africa, the Education Assistance Programme of the Education Development Fund (EDT), the Lawyers for Human Rights, Witwatersrand University, Fort Hare University and the Equal Opportunities Council (EOC). Consultations are under way for the first half of 1993 for the

co-sponsorship of awards through the South African Council of Churches and the Southern African Catholic Bishops Council .

3. Role of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa

The Advisory Committee on UNETPSA, which was established by the General Assembly in 1968, advises the Secretary-General on the following matters:

(a) The strengthening and expansion of the Programme, including, in particular, the promotion of contributions to UNETPSA;

(b) The granting of subventions to educational and training institutions in Africa so that they may provide placement for students sponsored by UNETPSA;

(c) Any other matters concerning the Programme on which the Secretary-General may seek advice.

The Committee, which is currently chaired by Mr. Martin Huslid (Norway), is composed of the representatives of Belarus, Canada, Denmark, India, Japan, Liberia, Nigeria, Norway, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Venezuela, Zaire and Zambia. Representatives of the Special Committee against Apartheid, UNHCR, OAU and the Commonwealth Secretariat, as well as representatives of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland are invited to participate in the Advisory Committee's work as observers.

The Advisory Committee has played a key role in promoting funding for UNETPSA and in initiating or undertaking periodic evaluations of the Programme, and in elaborating new policy directions. It has convened or co-sponsored international conferences so as to facilitate interaction among donor countries, multilateral and bilateral implementing agencies, whether public or private, and South African and international experts on education.

4. Funding of the Programme

The Programme is financed through voluntary contributions by Governments, organizations and individuals. Contributions for the period from 1980 to 1990 alone amounted to \$49 million. In addition to these contributions, the Programme has often received numerous tuition waivers from universities, especially in the United States and Canada, as well as scholarships in kind from several Governments. Increased contributions during this period have been somewhat offset by rising average educational costs and inflation worldwide. However, at the pledging conference in

April 1992, Governments pledged an amount of US\$4 million, as opposed to US\$5.1 million the previous year.

Given the enormous educational needs in South Africa, and the role that the United Nations can play in helping address the huge economic, social and educational disparities in South Africa, activities of the Programme are expected to increase in the years ahead with a renewed effort at fund-raising.

5. Main thrust of UNETPSA activities (1967-1990)

UNETPSA has so far offered a broad range of training programmes outside of South Africa, ranging from the upper secondary level to the PhD level of study in a variety of fields. This has enabled Black students from southern Africa to get professional training in areas that for so long were not available to them. UNETPSA has trained scientists, engineers, lawyers, physicians, dentists, but also holders of graduate and post-graduate degrees in liberal arts, in particular in public administration, political science and international relations. It has also helped train many political, business, trade union, academic and other leaders in southern Africa. In so doing, it has contributed not only to meeting some of the human resources requirements in southern Africa, but it has also afforded young southern Africans opportunities for a well-rounded education that has given them access to the broad knowledge, critical thinking and creative abilities that enabled them to meet the challenges in their countries of origin.

At the end of the 1990-1991 academic year, there were 1,278 students sponsored by the Programme throughout the world. Almost 73 per cent of them were South Africans and about 27 per cent Namibians. About 76 per cent of all students sponsored by the Programme were placed in African and other low-cost countries, close to 19 per cent in North America and 5 per cent in Asia, Europe and the Caribbean. From 1968 to 1990, nearly 35,000 applications for assistance were received by the Programme. A total of 7,967 new awards were granted, while 15,721 awards for ongoing programmes were extended. More than 7,000 students have so far completed their studies, and for the most part returned home.

II. NEW DIRECTIONS

1. Main recommendations of the 1989 evaluation

The present directions of the Programme are rooted in the recommendations of the 1989 evaluation as endorsed by the Advisory Committee on UNETPSA and the General Assembly. Most recommendations have been or are being implemented. The main recommendations are:

(a) To keep the manpower needs of South Africa and Namibia in mind when selecting candidates.

(b) To give priority consideration to applicants from inside South Africa. In this regard, UNETPSA should link up with educationally oriented organizations that are non-partisan and highly respected for their integrity.

(c) To allocate more funds in low-cost countries, so that more students can benefit.

The Programme should encourage relatively shorter courses at the middle level (diploma courses, first university degree in Africa, with good prospects of employment). Awards for study in Europe and North America should be reserved for students at the post-graduate level and for other specialized training not available in Africa. The considerable potential of South African universities should also be taken into account.

(d) UNETPSA should continue to adhere to its established priority fields of study which are drawn up to be in line with manpower projections inside South Africa. All technical fields, science and medicine are of the highest priority. Education, agriculture, law and accountancy are other fields of particular need.

(e) For study in high-cost countries, returnability and employability should be made criteria of selection.

(f) **Training priorities:** Teacher training, technical, commercial and vocational training.

(g) **Placement:** Give the Programme a more African profile, through an appropriate resource allocation and funding of students in low-cost countries.

2. Expanded legislative mandate and new policy directions

On 13 December 1991, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 46/80 which authorized UNETPSA, for the first time since it was established in 1967, to initiate in an appropriate manner, educational and training programmes inside South Africa. As a result of this new mandate and the changes taking place in South Africa, more specific policy directions have evolved for the Programme.

These policy directions duly take into account the following recommendations made by the International Conference on Educational Assistance to Victims of Apartheid, held in Paris in June 1991:

(a) International agencies and educational programmes concerned can contribute to meeting the needs of the victims of apartheid, particularly by means of:

- (i) Supporting and complementing the South African people's endeavours towards major educational restructuring through quality education, research and development of learning material;
- (ii) Providing assistance for the training of managers of educational change at all levels, including teachers, educators, planners, communication specialists and administrators;
- (iii) Assisting in the fields of public administration, policy analysis and planning and business management and strengthening the capacity of institutions and organizations;

(b) To the extent possible, educational and training programmes conducted abroad should take into consideration the potential for job placement in South Africa, including self-employment. In this connection, the private sector, community and non-governmental organizations, as well as international educational and scholarship programmes concerned, should be called upon to work out mechanisms and arrangements whereby South Africans trained abroad are given job opportunities to contribute to the political, economic and social development of their country;

(c) Universities and other educational institutions which promote educational and training programmes for the Black majority should be supported. In this connection, international agencies and educational institutions should cooperate in developing exchange programmes for disadvantaged graduate students and faculty with such South African universities and institutions;

(d) Major programmes of bilateral and multilateral educational cooperation and assistance to South Africa, whether public or private, should keep in close liaison, periodically exchange views and coordinate action. In this connection, it is agreed that the United Nations and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and major intergovernmental programmes, should work to ensure that there are mechanisms for such collaboration among all concerned. It is proposed that a meeting for that purpose be organized at the beginning of 1992 under the auspices of UNETPSA.

The Programme has now embarked on projects both inside South Africa and abroad which aim at: (a) building up the

institutional capacity of non-governmental organizations, particularly the historically Black and other universities and communities; (b) providing Black leadership skills training in order to facilitate the transition to a non-racial and democratic South Africa; (c) training Black lawyers, judges, etc. for the effective administration of justice in a post-apartheid society; and (d) providing post-graduate and short-term specialized training in high-technology and other lead sectors of the economy that are not readily available in South Africa.

Priority fields of study that are currently sponsored by UNETPSA are as follows: accounting, business management, educational management, teacher training, mining, mechanical, civil and chemical engineering, dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, law, sciences (including computer science, chemistry, mathematics, physics, biotechnology, etc.) high- and middle-level management; agricultural sciences; public administration, policy analysis and planning; and communications and information technology. These priority fields are reviewed from time to time to adjust to human resources requirements in South Africa.

3. Work plan for 1992-1993

This work plan clearly reflects the new directions of the Programme. It is characterized by:

(a) **Priority training inside South Africa:** UNETPSA is now focusing on educational and training projects inside South Africa, which will use nearly US\$3 million or about 41 per cent of the total amount for projected new awards (\$7.1 million). Details of co-sponsorship arrangements are as follows:

(i) Bursary Council of South Africa

For the period 1992-1993, UNETPSA has concluded arrangements for co-sponsorships of 125 students in UNETPSA fields of priority (biotechnology, computers, community development, education, environmental studies, agriculture, engineering, science, business, and health professions) who are studying at various universities and technicons in South Africa.

Total cost to the Programme is

\$990,000

(ii) Education Assistance Programme (EAP) of the Education Development Fund (EDT)

UNETPSA has a cooperative arrangement with EDT, which resulted in the placement of 68

"A" and "O" level students in Zimbabwe that will conclude in 1992. For the period 1992-1993, co-sponsorship arrangements have been concluded for 125 students who are studying in UNETPSA fields of priority (biotechnology, computers, community development, education, environmental studies, agriculture, engineering, science, business and health professions) in universities and technicons in South Africa.

Total cost to the Programme is \$990,000

(iii) The Lawyers for Human Rights (South Africa)

In 1992-1993, a total of 70 awards for lawyers throughout South Africa has been arranged through the bursary unit of the Lawyers for Human Rights.

Total cost to the Programme is \$312,000

(iv) Witwatersrand University (South Africa)

During the period 1992-1993, a total of 62 awards have been given for the study of business administration.

Total cost to the Programme is \$124,000

(v) Fort Hare University (South Africa)

The 55 awards in 1992-1993 will cover the fields of science, education and related university degrees.

Total cost to the Programme is \$208,000

(vi) Equal Opportunities Council (South Africa)

Consultations are under way for the first half of 1992 for the co-sponsorship of 30 junior professional university staff aimed at institution-building in the fields of science, engineering and agriculture.

Total cost to the Programme is \$132,000

(vii) Other universities and church councils

Consultations are under way for the first half of 1993 for the co-sponsorship of 30 awards at other universities through the South African Council of Churches and the Southern African Catholic Bishops Council.

Total cost to the Programme is \$ 78,000

(b) **Training programmes abroad:** In accordance with UNETPSA's terms of reference, these programmes take essentially the form of co-sponsorships and individual awards in both high- and low-cost countries, as follows:

Co-sponsorships with educational institutions and programmes outside South Africa:

(i) Commonwealth Secretariat

In 1992-1993, the proposed cooperation includes the following:

40 students will be co-sponsored on a fifty-fifty basis in UNETPSA fields of priority (biotechnology, computers, community development, education, environmental studies, agriculture, engineering, science, business, and health professions) for degree and diploma courses in Commonwealth developing countries. The duration of the sponsorships varies from one to three years. It was further agreed that an additional group of 20-40 might be considered in early 1993.

Total cost to the Programme is \$ 64,000
(See also SAETF below)

(ii) South African Extension Unit

UNETPSA approved the continued funding of the South African Extension Unit to train, on a fifty-fifty basis, 375 students.

Total cost to the Programme is \$150,000

(iii) Southern Africa Education Trust Fund (SAETF)

The Southern Africa Education Trust Fund of Canada is co-sponsoring with the Programme a small business development course for 10 participants which will take place in Swaziland for the academic work and in Canada for practical attachments. There is a possibility that this organization together with the Commonwealth Secretariat would share the cost equally.

Total cost to the Programme is \$ 36,800

In addition, 40-60 trainees would be drawn from middle-level management and local government positions in South Africa. The

training would take place in South Africa with practical attachments in Canada.
Total cost to the programme is

\$113,200

(iv) India

Arrangements are being concluded for the previously (1991) approved placement of 50 candidates at tertiary institutions in UNETPSA priority fields of science and technical education.
Total estimated cost is

\$150,000

Co-sponsorships in high-cost countries

(i) University of Alberta

Administrative arrangements are in the process of being concluded in respect of 10 Namibian students at the MA level for institution-building in the field of teacher education.
Total cost to the Programme is

\$ 43,000

(ii) Bristol University

The Programme will co-sponsor with Bristol University 10 individuals for six months mid-level professional upgrading and 15 individuals for 12 months' training towards the Master's degree in Education. The awards are tenable at Bristol (United Kingdom) and Witwatersrand (South Africa) Universities. The project was approved in 1991 and is being executed during the current reporting period.
Total cost to the Programme is

\$225,000

(iii) Japan

UNETPSA, in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is to place 10 individuals for short-term programmes in high technology, computer and industrial development training.
Total cost to the Programme is

\$150,000

(iv) African-American Institution (AAI)

For 1992-1993, UNETPSA continued discussions with AAI to replicate their University of the Western Cape project with five other Black

universities. This programme as brought 20 lecturers during the past two years for 6-month professional upgrading and research programmes at United States universities. The proposal entails co-sponsorship of 20 participants a year. UNETPSA would contribute to the direct students' costs.

The annual cost will be approximately

\$144,000

(v) Council on International Programmes

UNETPSA has concluded co-sponsorship arrangements with the Council on International Programmes which brings 200 social workers and community development professionals to the United States annually for 4- and 12-month work experiences with social welfare agencies. CIP will administer a special programme for approximately 15 South Africans to undertake professional work experiences. Since the participants usually receive a small stipend, costs to UNETPSA will be minimal. UNETPSA has budgeted to range between \$7,200 and \$7,500 per participant to cover airfare, a partial stipend, and an introductory and mid-term seminar.

Total cost to the Programme is

\$112,500

(vi) Institute of International Education

Co-sponsorship arrangements with IIE for the 1992-1993 period, will include up to 25 new awards at the MA and PhD levels in priority fields. This will include career upgrading of mid-level professionals, including those from Black universities in South Africa.

Total cost to the Programme is

\$150,000

(vii) Ohio University

Co-sponsorship arrangements may include up to 10 civil servants at the Ministry of Education or University, teachers or administrators from Namibia at the MA level in the fields of teacher education and educational administration.

Total cost to the Programme is

\$100,000

(viii) New Hampshire College

For the period 1992-1993, co-sponsorship arrangements will include 5 professionals from the health care field for MA level studies in applied strategies for health promotion in developing countries within the framework of the Community Economic Development Programme.

Total cost to the Programme is \$ 85,000

(ix) South Dakota School of Mining and Technology

Arrangements have been concluded for the admission of up to 10 students at the undergraduate or MA level in the fields of mining, geological or metallurgical engineering. It is expected that trainees will be selected on the basis of their employability or guaranteed employment upon return home.

Total cost to the programme is \$140,000

(x) Southern Africa Freedom Through Education Foundation (SAFTE) and others

The Education Fund for Southern Africa and cooperating institutions such as Ramapo College, African Arts Fund, Upsala University and Kearney State College.

For 1992-1993, co-sponsorship arrangements would include undergraduates primarily at the junior level. In a cooperative effort, a number of organizations and foundations, notably the Ford Foundation, are currently consulting for ways and means of co-sponsoring on a one-time basis a limited number of undergraduates currently stranded in high-cost countries.

Total cost to the Programme is \$144,000

Requests under consideration

The following projects were proposed and pending receipt of requested additional information and/or clarification, are being kept under review.

(i) Commonwealth Secretariat - short courses

Discussions are continuing on six short term courses to be held in Commonwealth developing countries on the following topics:

Local government	Zimbabwe	20	\$35,000
Economic planning	Botswana	15	\$26,250
Small business	Swaziland	15	\$26,250
Computer Training	Zimbabwe	20	\$29,750
Senior Administrators	Botswana	15	\$26,250
and Managers			
Trade union training	Ghana		
	Nigeria		
	Malaysia	16	\$25,000
	Total	101	

Total cost to UNETPSA on 50/50 basis
would be \$168,500

(ii) South African Council of Churches

Consultations are under way for the first half of 1993 for the co-sponsorship of 30-50 students at tertiary institutions in South Africa.

Total estimated cost to the Programme is \$ 50,000

(iii) South African Catholic Bishops Council

Consultations are under way for the co-sponsorship of 30-50 students during the first half of 1993 at tertiary institutions in South Africa.

Total estimated cost to the Programme
would be \$ 50,000

To the terms of the proposed arrangements, UNETPSA will provide a substantial financial contribution towards these awards at the students' home institution. The church councils will in turn provide the administrative support, all counselling, including academic bridging courses, which will take place at various centres.

Individual awards

Following the Selection Panel meeting on 6 and 7 July 1992, the following awards were made:

<u>Degree</u>	<u>No. of awards</u>	<u>Fields of Study</u>
MA	36	Arts (2); Business and Public Administration; Community Economic Development (3); Economic Development and Economic Policy (1); Education (5); Engineering (4); Labour and Industrial Relations (1); Marketing (6); Medicine and Public Health (4); Political Science (1); Social Work (1) Sciences (2); Students Personal Administration (1); Urban, City and Regional Planning (5)
PhD	24	Agronomy (1); Business Administration (1); Economics (1); Education (7); Engineering (2); Humanities (1); International Relations (2); Medicine and Public Health (6); Sciences (2); Urban and Regional Studies (1)

Most of the awards involve full or partial tuition waivers from educational institutions in the United States. Some tuition waivers have also been secured at Canadian universities.

(c) **Resource allocation for 1992 and 1993 and placement by region:** The structural changes that are taking place within the Programme through resource allocation and placement can be seen in the following indicative tables:

ALLOCATIONS FOR 1992 AND 1993
(United States dollars)

I. <u>Extensions</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Low-cost countries	608,500.00	95,950.00	
High-cost countries	<u>971,300.00</u>	<u>844,000.00</u>	
Total, I	<u>1,579,800.00</u>	<u>939,950.00</u>	<u>2,519,750.00</u>
II. <u>New awards</u>			
Low-cost countries	1,508,283.33	205,166.67	
High-cost countries	485,013.33	464,666.67	
Low-cost country co-sponsorship	1,625,000.00	1,573,000.00	
High-cost country co-sponsorship	<u>940,166.67</u>	<u>383,333.33</u>	
Total, II	<u>4,558,463.33</u>	<u>2,626,166.67</u>	<u>7,184,630.00</u>
Total, I and II	<u>6,138,263.33</u>	<u>3,566,116.67</u>	
	<u>Total, Programme</u>		<u>9,704,380.00</u>

1992-1993 PLACEMENT BY REGION

	<u>Low cost</u>	<u>High cost</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Extensions:			
Namibia	8	21	29
South Africa	166	136	302
New awards:			
Namibia	68	17	85
South Africa	369	60	429
New awards co-sponsorships:			
Namibia	0	20	20
South Africa	<u>978</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>1,113</u>
	<u>1,589</u>	<u>389</u>	<u>1,978</u>
Individual awards (including tuition waivers from institutions)			845
Co-Sponsored awards:		1,133	

It should be pointed out that total projected expenditures for 1992-1993 in low-cost countries amount to about 58 per cent and about 42 per cent in high-cost countries, as opposed to four years ago, when the ratio was 33 per cent in low-cost countries and 67 per cent in high-cost countries.

Similarly, the focus of the Programme on South Africa is quite evident: 93 per cent of students to be sponsored during the period covered by the work plan are to come from South Africa; Namibians will account for about 7 per cent.

4. The road ahead

(a) Establishing a physical presence in South Africa

As a humanitarian programme and in order to effectively manage its increasing educational and training activities in South Africa, UNETPSA is considering establishing, in due course, a physical presence inside South Africa, possibly as part of UNHCR. The Programme will thus be in a better position to provide educational assistance to South African returnees. It is also considering launching soon a fund-raising campaign to cope with the increasing demands for scholarship assistance it receives from South African educational institutions and students alike.

(b) Focus on institution-building and other development-related training projects inside South Africa

In order to contribute effectively to human resources development in South Africa, and in line with its new policy directions, UNETPSA is increasingly devoting its resources to institution-building, to training activities with a multiplier effect (teacher's training, medicine, etc.) and, more generally, to development-related training projects inside South Africa.

In the wake of the Windhoek Seminar (May 1992), and as organs and agencies of the United Nations system begin to look into ways and means of helping to address South Africa's huge economic and social disparities resulting from decades of apartheid, UNETPSA looks forward to taking up the challenges ahead.
